

## **Ohio State Report**

### **June 2017**

The State of Ohio's Protection & Advocacy Agency has filed a class action against the State of Ohio over its ICF system. The suit also attacks sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs. This is the second P & A suit in recent history. This most current suit comes after the P & A failed to achieve systemic reform through the democratic process in the state legislature.

Families of ICF residents who also use sheltered workshops and day programs have filed a motion to intervene in the suit. They are waiting to hear how the court will rule on the motion.

Over 36,000 individuals are served with waivers to access residential and work accommodations through Ohio's system of group homes, sheltered workshops, day programs, waiver recipients' own home and shared living.

Approximately 6,000 individuals are served in private and state-run ICFs.

The State is gradually working to downsize ICFs through attrition in state-run developmental centers and through financial incentives and penalties on private providers.

The State is also working to close facility-based sheltered workshops and day programs over the objections of families. This is happening by closing admissions to these programs. The State is transitioning to a system where individuals are placed on vans and taken around to community locations such as the YMCA, the library, a museum, etc.

In the recent budget cycle, the state has increased wages for direct care professionals with the bulk of that funding going towards workers in the community system.